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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/676,237	09/29/2000	Ralph Frisch	TRW(ASG)5545	9971

7590

01/13/2003

Tarolli Sundheim Covell Tummino & Szabo LLP
1111 Leader Bldg
526 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-1400

EXAMINER

FLEMING, FAYE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Remarked
1-10-03

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Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/676,237

Applicant(s)

FRISCH, RALPH

Examiner

Faye Fleming

Art Unit

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on October 10, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12 and 16-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8, 10-12, 16, 17 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 10 October 2001 is: a) ☐ approved b) ☒ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on October 10, 2001. These drawings are not acceptable.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "14" (fastener part) and "13" (steering wheel) have both been used to designate the same part. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the applicant has designated the fastener part and the steering wheel as the same part in the drawings and discloses in the specification "a fastener 10 in accordance with the invention which connects a component, e.g., the inflator mount 12 of a gas bag module 11 to a fastener part 14 secured, e.g., to a steering wheel 13". It is unclear how the fastener part is *secured* to a steering wheel when the fastener part is designated as the steering wheel. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The indicated allowability of claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to U. S. Patent 5,810,535. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7, 8, 10-12, 16, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleckenstein, et al ('535) in view of Szigethy ('190).

Fleckenstein, et al discloses a gas bag module 1 comprising two fastening arms 10' having hooks 10 with contact surface areas; a fastener part 7 comprises a concave contact surface, said fastening arms entering into a snap-action connection with said fastener part and clasping said fastener part in a connected condition, said contact surface areas of said fastening arms engaging said concave contact surface of said fastener part when in said connected condition (See Figure 1). The fastener part and said fastening arms comprise ramps corresponding to each other, as shown in Figure 1. Fleckenstein teaches the claimed invention except for the gas bag module connected with a steering wheel. Szigethy teaches an air bag assembly within a steering wheel including an inflator mount 14. Based on the teachings of Szigethy, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the gas bag module of Fleckenstein, et al mounted to a steering wheel to provide protection for an occupant of a vehicle.

Art Unit: 3618

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 18 is allowed.
8. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-12 and 16-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Faye Fleming at telephone number (703) 305-0209.

Faye Fleming
Examiner
Art Unit 3618

[Signature]
12/31/01

[Signature]
12/31/01
SUPERVISOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 6000